Mr. Alan Fitzgibbon
P.O.Box 34071
Bethesda, Md. 20817

12/11/85

Dear Alan,

I'd hoped you'd have heard of the hearing I got before Judge J.L.Smith and would be there yesterday so that we might have met. (It went as well as I could have hoped and we'll see what happens.)

You say you are looking for a better place to live, preferably a country house. Where? In many ways this is a fine area and it is about an hour from downtown D.C. except at rush hour, when it takes only slightly longer usually. If you want to explore this area I have a friend who is new in real estate, with a large local firm and is honest. Something to bear in mind is that on occasion the tenant house of a farm may be sold or rented separately. At the same time, it may be that the tenant house may require work to meet decent standards.

With regard to Ernst, I'd forgotten Salisbury's article, which I'd read. I think he hit the essence of what I knew. If I remember correctly, Ernst was one of the leading redbaiters inside the ACLU who also redbaited AMLU people. I think it more or less coincided with the period of his Hoover relationship. But that part of his past was public.

All I remember of what the disclosed records I have indicate is that there came a time when Hoover just cut him off.

Country house is a bit ambiguous. Jerry McKnight, history prof at local Hood, moved up here from Greenbelt and wouldn't think of moving again. Nor would his wife, who travels 30 miles daily to work. They got an old house near us in suburban Frederick. We're a little northwest of the city limits. It is not unusial to find homes with 2-5 acres, more often 1 or so, in this area. We're above the summertime air contamination for the most part and another advantage of a little elevation is the quality of reception on a wide variety of public radio and TV stations. And the additional stations that can be picked up well. The Hood library is not large but it is good enough for Sam Adams to have worked there on his TV special about Vietnam.

I was not close enough to the Ernst situation to know much and have reason to remember it. However, I remember two of the lawyers who suffered from it. They were rather nice guys, labor lawyers, partners in a New Jersey firm. One, Abe Isserman, was disbarred. The other is Sol Kapelsohn. If you can locate one of them he might be helpful but either would be rather old. Abe was keeping company with a woman I think was an actress named Madison, perhaps Joan. She lived in NYU. A New York lawyer, a friend from Senate Civil Liberties Committee days, may have some knowledge or may be able to refer you around. He is Sol Rabkin, 75 Henry Street, Brooklyn 11201. Abe's disbarment was political.

Real estate is not cheap around here largely because so many have come to prefer it to Washington and Baltimore and commute.

Hope you visit with the family is pleasant.

Best wishes,

Harold